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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/663,695

09/17/2003

Yoshiki Hashimoto

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01/10/2006

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

SUITE 700

1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.

WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

MCCLOUD, RENATA D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2837

DATE MAILED: 01/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief

Application No.

10/663,695

Applicant(s)

HASHIMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Renata McCloud

Art Unit

2837

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 20 December 2005 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
(a) ☒ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
(c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: See Continuation Sheet. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. ☒ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☒ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
Claim(s) allowed: _____.
Claim(s) objected to: _____.
Claim(s) rejected: 1-6.
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☐ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: _____.
12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08 or PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
13. ☐ Other: _____.


MARLON T. FLETCHER
PRIMARY EXAMINER

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claim 1, 3 and 6 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A robot system comprising a robot, and at least one apparatus which is driven by a servomotor and carries out operation in cooperation with the robot, wherein the robot system further comprises:

a detection unit for detecting operator's approach to the specified apparatus including at least one apparatus which carries out operation in cooperation with the robot or operator's entry to an off-limit region set for the specified apparatus, provided for each specified apparatus;

a unit for connecting and interrupting power supply to the servomotor which drives the specified apparatus, provided for each specified apparatus;

an emergency stop unit for receiving a notice of operator's approach or entry from the detection unit to bring the robot system into an emergency stopped state, wherein power supply to the robot and to each specified apparatus is interrupted; and

a monitoring unit ~~for monitoring~~, for each specified apparatus, ~~to monitor~~ a connection state and an interruption state of power supply to the servomotor which drives the specified apparatus, and canceling the notice from the detection unit to the emergency stop unit, for the specified apparatus ~~to which~~ when the power supply is interrupted.

2. (original) The robot system according to claim 1, wherein the specified apparatus further includes the robot.

3. (currently amended) A control apparatus for controlling a robot and at least one apparatus, comprising:

a detection unit to detect an operator's approach to the apparatus;

a power unit corresponding to the apparatus, to connect and interrupt power supply to the apparatus; and

an emergency stop unit to receive a notice of the operator's approach from the detection unit, and to interrupt power supply to the robot, and power supply to the apparatus via the corresponding power unit, based upon the received notice, wherein the notice is cancelled when

the power supply is interrupted.

4. (previously presented) The control apparatus of claim 3, further comprising a monitoring unit corresponding to the apparatus, to monitor a connection and an interruption of the power supply to the apparatus, wherein when the power supply to the apparatus is interrupted, the monitoring unit cancels the notice of the operator's approach received from the detection unit, thereby preventing the emergency stop unit from receiving the notice of the operator's approach.

5. (previously presented) The control apparatus of claim 3, wherein the apparatus comprises a plurality of apparatuses, wherein when an operator approaches one of the plurality of apparatuses, the power supply to all of the apparatuses and the robot is interrupted, respectively.

6. (currently amended) A control apparatus for controlling a robot and at least one apparatus, comprising:

a detection unit to detect an operator's approach to the apparatus;

a power unit corresponding to the apparatus, to connect and interrupt power supply to the apparatus; and

means for receiving a notice of the operator's approach from the detection unit, ~~and for~~ interrupting power supply to the robot, and power supply to the apparatus via the corresponding power unit, based upon the received notice, and for canceling the notice from the detection unit when the power supply is interrupted.

Continuation of 3. NOTE: The limitations " monitoring unit for each specified apparatus to monitor", "wherein the notice is cancelled when the power supply is interrupted" and " for canceling the notice from the detection unit when the power supply is interrupted" require further search and/or consideration .